

## Message Text

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ACTION FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 L-03 TRSE-00 NSC-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 SAM-01 COME-00 OES-03 ACDA-05 NASA-01 OTPE-00

FCC-01 PM-04 /060 W

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R 180729Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3032

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

FAA BRUSSELS 1760

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SP

SUBJ: AIR MINISTRY BUDGET CUT POSTPONES FAA ATC PROJECT

REF: STATE 205674, MADRID 6163

1. COL. ANGEL MENDOZA CATRAIN, WHO HAS BEEN COORDINATING SPANISH RESPONSE TO FAA ATC PROPOSAL, INFORMED EMBOFF SEPT. 15 THAT IT WOULD NOT BE OPPORTUNE FOR ISRAEL TO VISIT MADRID LAST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER.

2. MENDOZA EXPLAINED THAT THE ENTIRE MATTER OF A NEW ATC (AIR TRAFFOC CONTROL) SYSTEM IS BEING POSTPONED FOR AN AS YET UNDETERMINED PERIOD DUE TO ECONOMIC FORECASTS LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN PREVIOUS ONES. THESE FORECAST CHANGES AND OTHER FACTORS HAVE LEAD TO DRASTIC REDUCTION IN THE BUDGET FOR AIR MINISTRY IN FOURTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN (1976 TO 1979). RESPONDING TO EMBOFF QUESTION, MENDOZA GAVE WHAT HE CAREFULLY DESCRIBED AS AN OFF-THE-CUFF ESTIMATE THAT AIR MINISTRY'S REQUEST FOR FUNDS IN THIS PLAN OF APPROXIMATELY 18 BILLION PESETAS (\$1,044 MILLION) HAD BEEN SLASHED BY TWO-THIRDS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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\$345 MILLION.

3. MENDOZA STATED THAT THIS ADDED TIME TO CONSIDER THE ATC QUESTION AS A WHOLE, TOGETHER WITH REDUCED ESTIMATE FOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN GENERAL AND AIR TRAFFIC IN PARTICULAR, HAD LED TO THE DECISION TO MAKE DO OVER THIS PERIOD WITH THE NEW ATC BEING CONSTRUCTED IN PARACUELLOS JUST OUTSIDE OF MADRID.

4. MENDOZA ALSO VOLUNTEERED THAT A FRENCH OFFER WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION, ADDING THAT FRENCH HAD BEEN PRESSING GOS TO CONSIDER THEIR ATC ADVISORY OFFER FOR A CONSIDERABLE, ALTHOUGH UNSPECIFIED, PERIOD. MENDOZA SAID THIS MATTER WAS DELICATE AND PROFESSED NOT TO KNOW WHETHER THIS RECENT FRENCH MOVE REPRESENTED AN APPROACH DIRECTLY BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OR BY A FRENCH FIRM. THIS APPROACH, SAID MENDOZA, IS QUITE DISTINCT FROM THE CONTACT SPAIN HAS HAD IN THIS FIELD WITH EUROCONTROL.

5. EMBOFF ASCERTAINED FROM MENDOZA THAT ALMOST ALL ATC EQUIPMENT IN SPAIN IS AMERICAN. MENDOZA STATED THAT, SPEAKING ENTIRELY UNOFFICIALLY, HE WOULD FAVOR CONTINUING WITH AMERICAN EQUIPMENT, SINCE THERE WOULD BE A GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN SETTING UP A FRENCH ATC SYSTEM COMPATIBLE WITH THE ALREADY INSTALLED AMERICAN EQUIPMENT. MENDOZA SAID SOMETIMES OFFICIALS MUST DO FOR POLITICAL REASONS THINGS WHICH THEY DISAPPROVE OF ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS.

6. CONCERNING AIR MINISTRY PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT PLAN MORE GENERALLY, MENDOZA MODESTLY STATED DETAILS IN HANDS OF HIS SUPERIORS. BUT HE SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT AMONG THE OTHER PROJECTS SIMILARLY INDEFINITELY POSTPONED WERE THE SECOND AIRPORT IN MADRID AND COOPERATION IN THE EUROPEAN AEROSAT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. HOWEVER, LATTER WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE FOR A WHILE ON MONEY STILL UNSPENT FROM THE THIRD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (1972-75).

7. IN CONVERSATION ON DIFFERENT TOPIC REPORTED SEPTEL, EMBOFF WAS TOLD BY LT. COL. LUIS GOMEZ-ESCOBAR, HEAD OF AVIATION SECURITY, THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT THIS FAA AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL PROJECT WILL BE BROUGHT UP AT THE MEETING OF ECAC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(EUROPEAN CIVIL AVIATION COMMITTEE) ON SEPTEMBER 22.

8. SINCE THOMSON BRADT OF PARIS, LEADING FRENCH FIRM IN THIS FIELD, HAS AN ESTABLISHMENT IN MADRID, ALBEIT FOR DOMESTIC APPLIANCES AND TV SETS AT PRESENT, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT FIRM MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN FRENCH ATC PROJECT. MADRID WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION PARIS CAN PROVIDE ON THOMPSON'S AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EXPERIENCE AS WELL AS ASSESSMENT OF ITS COMPETENCE THERE,

FOR USE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOS AIR MINISTRY OFFICIALS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, BUDGETS, NEGOTIATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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